

NSC BRIEFING

13 April 1958

State Department review completed

ALGERIA

- I. A new phase of the Algerian rebellion may be taking shape.**
- A. The Algerian rebel organization, National Liberation Front (FLN) is debating advisability of proclaiming a provisional government.**
- 1. Such action has been under intermittent discussion by FLN for more than a year.**
 - 2. Bourguiba, who counsels delay, fears Cairo might be site.**
 - 3. These fears somewhat dispelled by return of most of FLN executive body to Tunis after two months in Cairo.**

- D. Bourguiba--who wants to wean FLN from Nasir toward his own independence-by-stages method--advising Algerians as preliminary step to form Committee of National Liberation, on model of DeGaulle's Free France during World War II.**
- 1. He argues this would sidestep recognition issue, thereby allowing Tunisia and Morocco more maneuverability to aid rebels without breaking with France.**
- E. A conference of Moroccan, Tunisian and Algerian political leaders at Tangier on 27 April will formally discuss North African (Maghreb) Federation and independence of Algeria.**

1. The federation is Bourguiba's pet scheme and King Mohamed has endorsed it.

II. Meanwhile, in Algeria rebels have stepped up terrorist attacks, especially in central and eastern Algeria.

A. Much of this has taken form of indiscriminate grenade attacks in crowded public places.

B. Principal targets have been Moslems who have accepted local legislative seats. Indicates rebels making determined effort to prevent implementation basic statute for Algeria, enacted in January.

1. Statute offers small measure of autonomy but falls far short of Algerian desires.

C. Our picture of the extent of terrorist activity is incomplete. French are suppressing information.

1. E. G. US consulate general Algiers informed by railway officials 47 bridges blown up in south Oran region by rebels since December but no mention made by press or French authorities.



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